

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Project Name	Latest Estimated expenditure upto Cost end of VIII Plan	Cumulative
Medium Projects			
1.	Badanala	91.75	86.90
2.	Baghalati	45.44	11.32
3.	Baghua St. I	1.35	1.35
	Baghua St. II	40.80	32.49
4.	Birupa Gangali Island Irrigation	11.46	12.99
5.	Deo	52.23	20.15
6.	Harabhangi	143.10	91.49
7.	Hariharjore	84.09	57.40
8.	Sapuabadajore	23.21	22.11
9.	Satiguda	4.52	1.77
10.	Upper Jonk	125.43	78.61

Fall in ground water level in Bihar

† 244. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water level of approximately 100 Kms. stretch between Buxer to Patna has gone down eight to nine feet;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

[22 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government's attention was ^kawn by the representatives of Bihar State towards the ill effects on water availability for agriculture in the State due to the receding water level; and

(c) if so, the scheme formulated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per observations made by the Central Ground Water Board during the last ten years, a drop of ground water level varying 0 to 2 metres has been observed in the stretch between Buxer to Patna. In some pockets, such as near Rajpur village, a fall in ground water level ranging 2 to 4 metres has also been observed.

(c) Water being a State subject steps to augment ground water resources is taken by the concerned State Government. The steps taken by the Union Government to increase the ground water level in the country include:—

- (i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories, to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies in artificial recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' and 'Dark' blocks of the country.